

CHATSWORTH PAST & PRESENT

By Ann Vincent

September 2009



This issue of Chatsworth Past & Present features the landmark building and office of Dr.

Barbara Pampalone at 21800 Devonshire Street. Since the building has been remodeled several times to house each of the various businesses, the building itself is not classified as historic, but the exterior has been maintained in a style similar to the original structure. This Professional building has been the offices of several of our local Dentists over the years.



Dr Schurter's home and office 1949

In 1949, Dr. Joe Schurter moved his dental practice from the office building on the corner of Topanga and Devonshire to this new building that he built at 21800 Devonshire. The building located on the south west corner of Jordan and Devonshire has remained a dental office ever since. Since they lived in the building, Dr. Schurter's wife Rose was available if he needed a dental assistant. By using a buzzer they had installed in their kitchen to let her know when to come to the office, she was on call when needed.

In approximately 1960, Dr. Schurter decided to specialize and become an orthodontist. There was not a large enough population in Chatsworth to support an orthodontist, so he built another building in Reseda and opened a new practice. They moved to a home on Chatsworth Street and began renting out the Devonshire building to other dentists, including Dr. Hocker, and Dr. Kinsman who later built another Spanish style building on Canoga. Dr. Blier also rented for a while and also moved on to build his own new building

Barbara and Joe Pampalone rented the building from Dr. Joe Schurter, on August 1, 1967, the day Barbara's dental license became active. As a new USC Dental School graduate, she opened up her door and started her new practice from scratch. The Pampalones rented two sections of the building for the dental office and a dental laboratory. Joe, a dentist by trade from France, ran a dental laboratory that he moved to this building from across the street. The Pampalone's BioCeramic Laboratory was one of the largest commercial dental porcelain laboratories in the San

Fernando Valley. The ability to have rapid dental or partial repairs, as well as the customization of dental care, was important for a dental office. The BioCeramic Dental Lab was one of the first all porcelain-fused-to-gold laboratories in 1965.

In 1969, Dr. Schurter eventually convinced Barbara and Joe to purchase the building from him. They then redesigned the interior of the building for more efficient use.



Professional building and Chamber of Commerce 1974

In 1972 the Chamber of Commerce became a tenant in the front part of the building. Dr. Joe Pampalone was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, and they rented that section to the Chamber for \$1 per year. Charles Janess, a long time resident of Chatsworth, was active in Chamber of Commerce. Bea and Marshall Berman also rented an office from the Pampalones when Marshall first brought his CPA business to Chatsworth.

Over the years, Dr. Barbara shared her offices with several dentists. Dr. Donna Bighart Hurowitz, a fellow USC graduate, started in the office shortly after Barbara opened, sharing space and alternating days with Dr. Barbara. Donna would assist the Schurters with their dental work for the Rancho San Antonio's Boys Home and continued to practice there until 1977. Barbara also shared office space with other dentists over the years that included Dr. Schindler, Dr. Martin, Dr. Marina Pampalone, (Barbara and Joe's daughter), Dr. Popkoff and Dr Sharhiar Parvizpova.

Since 2007, with some remodeling, the building is now shared with NAYA Fresh Body Spa, a business owned and operated by Marie Patterson & Erik Pampalone.



2009

Barbara continues to practice Dentistry and has been working there 42 of the 60 years since the building was constructed.

Chatsworth Historical Society – September 2009